



Issue No. 7 Autumn 2004

BASIN BULLETIN

A Quarterly Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

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EPA Community Involvement Contacts

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Clean Water Act Grant Proposals Under Review

The 2004 budget for EPA included \$1,988,200 for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission. The money is to carry out a pilot program for environmental response, natural resource restoration, and related activities. This is the third year in a row that such monies have been made available. The grant funds can be used "to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution" (CWA 104[a][1]). The funds cannot be used to carry out work identified in the Superfund Records of Decisions.

A request for grant proposals was issued on June 10th requesting submittals by July 15th. Twenty-three proposals were submitted. The Technical Leadership Group (TLG) had a two-day meeting in August to discuss all proposals. Additional TLG meetings were held September 22nd and October 14th to evaluate and rank the proposals. Thirteen proposals were recommended for more consideration.

Members of the TLG briefed the citizens attending the Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC) meetings on September 22 and October 20.

The Basin Commission will evaluate the TLG's recommendations on the grant proposals at the November 10 meeting and will decide which proposals to fund.

Executive Director Hiring Update

The effort to hire an Executive Director for the Basin Commission continues. In October, the Basin Commission interviewed six candidates. No hiring decision has yet been made. Stay tuned for future announcements.

Yard Cleanup Program Makes Progress

2004 Basin Yard Program Update

The 2004 Basin Yard Program is making great progress. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the lead for the Basin residential cleanup program. DEQ has completed 266 residential yards, commercial properties, and rights-of-way as of mid-October. DEQ's goal is to finish the cleanup of 300 residential properties this year, weather permitting. In 2005, DEQ expects to clean up 300 more residential properties.

Along with property cleanup, DEQ also continues to sample residential properties. Sample results help determine if a property requires cleanup. High priority is given to properties most likely to pose a health risk to pregnant women and young children. To date in 2004, DEQ has sampled 781 properties in the Basin.

2004 Box Yard Program Update

In the Bunker Hill Box, the Upstream Mining Group (UMG) and the U.S. Army Corp of

Engineers (ACOE) are completing their residential cleanup activities for the 2004 season. UMG has completed their residential goal for the season by cleaning up 160 residential yards. UMG also has completed cleanup of 12 commercial properties and/or rights-of-way. To date, the ACOE program has completed 22 residential yards with 8 more soon to be completed, 18 commercial properties, and 4 rights-of-way. The ACOE's seasonal goal is to complete 40 residential yards, weather permitting.



Hundreds of yard cleanups take place this season.

Work Moves Forward on Mine and Mill Sites

As set forth under EPA's 2002 Record of Decision, remedial actions will be conducted at a number of Upper Basin Mine and Mill Sites. The actions will be designed to remove and/or mitigate metal loading sources from historic mining and milling operations, and to address human health risks from recreational exposures. Based upon the work of the Upper Basin Project Focus Team, the following sites were approved by the Basin Commission as a first priority for cleanup:

Constitution Mine and Mill — This site is located about 7.5 miles south of the town of Pinehurst at the headwaters of the east fork of Pine Creek.

Sisters Mine — The Sisters Mine is located within Segment 05 of the Canyon Creek Watershed next to Woodlawn Park.

Rex Mine and Mill — This site is located in the East Fork of the Ninemile Creek Watershed about seven

miles north of Wallace, Idaho.

Golconda Mine and Mill — This site is located along the north banks of the Upper South Fork CDA River just east of Wallace.

Parametrix, an EPA contractor, has started design work for the Sisters, Rex, and Golconda sites. As part of this design effort, Parametrix has been reviewing existing site-specific information and is conducting pre-design field work to fill data gaps for each site. Site-specific designs will be completed by Spring 2005. EPA has received funding to begin cleanup at one or more of these sites.

The Corps of Engineers is moving forward with the remedial design at the Constitution site. This work will be funded by both EPA and BLM. Pre-design field data is also being collected at this site. Design completion is scheduled for Spring 2005. EPA also plans to fund the work to begin cleanup at this site.

Two WA Recreation Areas Slated for Cleanup

Two recreation areas in Washington along the Spokane River are moving closer to cleanup: the Starr Road and Island Complex areas. There are 11 recreation sites along the Spokane River in Washington identified for cleanup in the Basin ROD. After sampling and study, EPA is now focusing on these two high-use, high-contamination areas. In August, EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers

finished sampling to help find out what parts of the sites require cleanup under Superfund. Chemicals of concern include lead, arsenic, cadmium and zinc. EPA is currently working on the cleanup design of these two areas in coordination with the Washington State Department of Ecology. If funding is available, these two recreation sites could be cleaned up as early as next summer.

EPA Proposes to Deny Hecla Request for Water Quality Standards Variances

In August, EPA proposed to deny Hecla Mining Company's request for variances from certain water quality standards. Specifically, Hecla requested variances from the cadmium, lead, and zinc standards that are the basis for the discharge limits in their Lucky Friday Mine National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Lucky Friday Mine, located near Mullan, discharges into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

EPA did a thorough and careful review of the request. EPA found that Hecla failed to demonstrate that the company qualifies for a variance. EPA took public comments on the proposal through September 30. EPA is now reviewing and considering those comments as it prepares to make a final decision. For more information, visit the website at: www.epa.gov/r10earth. Click on "Water Quality" in the left column, then scroll down to "What's New." Or, see the Administrative Record at the Wallace Public Library.

EPA's Five-Year Review of Box and Basin Cleanups Continues

As mentioned in the last Basin Bulletin, EPA has started a Five-Year Review of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site. EPA is evaluating the cleanups at the "Box" populated areas, the "Box" non-populated areas, and the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The review will make sure the cleanup is moving forward as planned, and that it protects human health and the environment. The Five-Year Review Report will not change the cleanup approach but may suggest improvements.

Cleanup work EPA is reviewing in the Box and Basin includes residential yards, commercial and community areas, recreational areas like boat launches, repositories holding mining wastes, industrial areas in the "Box," and the Central Treatment Plant.

In early April 2005, EPA will send its draft Five-Year Review report to states, tribes, and other federal agencies for review and comment. The draft should be out for public comment in June 2005. EPA will complete the review by September 2005.

If you have questions, please call Tamara Langton at 206-553-2709, or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372. To learn more, visit www.epa.gov/r10earth, click on *Index A-Z*, then *C*, then *Coeur d'Alene Basin*.

Lake Presentation to Hit the Road

A new educational presentation on Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Basin is now available. Staff from the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District and Coeur d'Alene Tribe are ready to take the presentation, called ***Our Gem***, on the road. Any organization or group wanting to learn more about state, federal, and tribal efforts to improve the water quality of Lake Coeur d'Alene—or to learn what they can do to be involved—can contact Rebecca Stevens at 208-762-4939 ext. 101 or ksswcd@icehouse.net.

Comings and Goings

The Basin Commission welcomes **Toni Hardesty**, IDEQ's new Director, to the board. Ms. Hardesty replaces **Steve Allred**. Best of luck to you, Steve, and welcome aboard, Toni.

Another farewell goes to **Anne Dettelbach**, facilitator for the Citizens' Coordinating Council from

Ross & Associates. **Tom Beierle**, also of Ross & Associates, replaces Anne. Best of luck to Anne and welcome, Tom.

Joining EPA's team is **Mark Masarik**, who works out of EPA's Boise Office. Mark will serve as an Idaho-based liaison with the state and with other local organizations engaged in Basin issues. Welcome, Mark.

FAQ's—Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Must lead hazards be disclosed during rental and sale agreements?

Answer: Yes, disclosure requirements exist regarding lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards on residential properties that are being sold or leased. Federal law* requires that individuals receive certain information before renting or buying housing built before 1978. Lead from paint, dust, and soil can be dangerous if not managed properly. Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that includes high levels of lead. The term "lead-based paint hazards" also includes any condition that causes exposure to lead from lead-contaminated dust, soil, or paint that is deteriorated or present in accessible surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces that would result in adverse human health effects. A brief summary of requirements follows.

*Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992; also called Title X; promulgated pursuant to 42 USC 4851. The regulations are found at 40 CFR Part 745.

Landlords have to disclose, among other things, known information on lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. They must give the lessee (tenant) the pamphlet called "Protect your Family from Lead in Your Home." Leases must include a disclosure about lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards.

Sellers have to disclose, among other things, known information on lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards before selling a house. They must give the buyer the pamphlet called "Protect your Family from Lead in Your Home." Sales contracts must include a disclosure about lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards. Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead if they want to.

Owners, buyers, and renters are encouraged to check for lead before renting or buying.

Please stay tuned for an update and more information on this topic in a future Basin Bulletin. For more information about federal lead disclosure requirements, or to get copies of brochures or pamphlets, contact Robert Kirkland, EPA, at 206-553-8282 or 1-800-424-4372, or e-mail kirkland.robert@epa.gov.

The State of Idaho also has disclosure requirements. Idaho Code requires sellers of residential real estate to disclose the known presence of hazardous materials or substances. The Code also requires brokers and agents to disclose material facts about the property.

Question: Why does the residential yard remediation program sometimes use water out of the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to irrigate remediated lawns? Could that water recontaminate the new soil?

continued

FAQ's *continued*

Answer: The yard program operators pump water from the river for irrigation and dust control. Water quality in the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River does not meet standards for some metals including lead and zinc. However, we are not worried about recontamination of the yard soil from the water. It would take thousands of inches of water to recontaminate the soil. Operators usually irrigate a lawn with only one to two inches of water.

Question: If using river water for irrigation is not of concern for contamination, then why are we concerned about potential recontamination due to flooding?

Answer: In a flood event, the river water could carry and deposit sediment that would have high enough concentrations of contaminants to exceed soil cleanup levels. In other words, it would be the *sediment* left over after the flood that would be of concern for causing recontamination, not the water. The water truck operator takes measures to keep sediments, which could be of contamination concern, out of the irrigation water.

Calendar of Events

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission November 10, 2004

Contact: Robbin Simmons, 208-783-5781
Kellogg Health and Welfare Building
See the Basin Commission's website for meeting information:
www.basincommission.com

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

Chairman: John Snider, 208-664-9773
Visit the CCC website for meeting information:
www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp

Other Citizen Group Meetings

Coeur d'Alene Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CBCAC)

Contact: John Snider, 208-664-9773

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)

Contact: Robin Stanley, 208-744-1118
Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Brooks Hotel 500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID

Silver Valley Community Resource Center

Contact: Barbara Miller, 208-784-8891
P.O. Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC),

Board of Directors Meeting
November 10, 2004, 6:00 p.m. and December 8, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Lloyd Brewer, 509-625-6968
Board meets second Wednesday of each month at
Spokane City Water Department Conference Room
914 E. North Foothills Drive, Spokane

Information Repositories

North Idaho College Library
1000 Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library
415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

Harrison City Hall
100 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 73
Harrison, ID 83833
208-689-3212

Spokane Public Library
906 West Main Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201
509-444-5336

EPA Field Office
1910 Northwest Blvd., Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office
Superfund Record Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494 or 1-800-424-4372



United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Community Involvement and Outreach
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

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Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho
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Websites

EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin
[http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/
CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda](http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda)

Basin Environmental Improvement Project
Commission
[http:// www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)
www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)
<http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp>

Submissions: To make a submission to Basin Bulletin, please contact Andrea Lindsay or Debra Sherbina (*see contact info on the front page*).

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